The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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SUPREME COURT MAKES WEAK APOLOGY FOR CHILD LABOR WRONG

One feature of the United States supreme court's recent annullment of the federal child labor law is its failure to make a single reference to Sec. 3, Art. 1, of the federal constitution, which empowers congress to provide for the "general welfare of the United States." The law of the child labor law is to provide revenue "and for other purposes."

The court, however, was alarmed lest the so-called states rights (tenth) amendment to the constitution would be violated.

If the court's conclusions were given minute study and wide circulation by the workers, other progressives would hardly be necessary to indicate the court's disregard for human welfare as against profits.

The court found fault with congress for penalizing, rather than taxing, employers of child labor, though acknowledgement is made that it "is sometimes difficult to define the difference." Objection is also made to what appears to be the clear intention of congress to tax child labor products out of existence.

Cautious reference is made to several decisions which are in direct opposition to the court's present reasoning.

The state bank law, which levies a 10 per cent tax on these banks, was upheld by the supreme court. Congress, the court ruled, can tax these banks out of existence to secure "a sound and uniform currency."

Chief Justice Taft approves this decision, but outlaws a child labor law that can be defended under the "general welfare" clause of the constitution to provide for sound manhood and womanhood.

In the yellow oleomargarine tax the supreme court upheld congress when it raised the tax from 2 cents a pound to 10 cents a pound. The purpose of the oleo tax is as clear as the child labor tax of 10 per cent of the employer's profits when children under 14 are employed.

If child labor comes under the states rights clause of the constitution, who will say that this does not also apply to the manufacture of oleomargarine?

To a layman it would appear strange that if congress can tax a state product known as oleo out of existence, why the states rights doctrine should be applied to the child labor law.

This thin ice is passed over rapidly by the supreme court, which almost flippantly claims that neither the state bank nor the oleo tax showed on their face "the detailed specifications of a regulation of a state commerce."

The court, unfortunately, failed to state that the enforcement of a state bank tax and an oleo tax does not call for "the detailed specifications" that are necessary to circumvent exploiters of child labor.

These "detailed specifications," so objectionable to the court, are found in the narcotic drug act, which is a marvel of red tape. In upholding this law the supreme court declared that even if the purpose of the act was other than taxation, and did not show on the face of the act, the law is legal.

Or, in other words, if congress wants to tax an evil out of existence, without saying so, it has the approval of the court.

In the child labor act the supreme court expounds at length on the workings of the act. It seems to suddenly discover that congress wanted to penalize child labor. The court then thunders:

"In the light of these features of the act, a court must be blind not to see that the so-called tax is imposed to stop the employment of children within the age limits prescribed. All others can see and understand this. How can we properly shut our minds to it?"

According to this reasoning the present supreme court would annul the attempt to outlaw narcotics because that purpose was concealed in the drug tax.

This child labor decision is almost oozy in its weakness and palpable determination to protect profits from child labor.

In other features are contradictions, uncertainty, apology, absence of conviction, and a hurried desire to get out of awkward places.

The decision is both an indictment of the court and a defense of organized labor's opposition to the court's veto policy.

WHITE HOUSE USED AS ROSTRUM TO DEFEND TRUST'S 12-HOUR DAY

Washington, May 27.—"Sheer deception" and the "colossal effrontery of big business" said President Gompers in a statement following an announcement by Judge Gary at the white house after a dinner given by the president to leading employers in the steel industry.

"Judge Gary says that 'all favored the abolition of the 12-hour day, if and when practicable,' a statement which means absolutely nothing," said President Gompers.

"If the white house conference was called to discuss the 12-hour day I am unable to see where any progress was made. We may take the conference as being something of an indication of the public condemnation of steel trust practices, but it is difficult to see any sincerity in the 'if and when practicable' formula.

"The excuse that foreign-born workmen oppose the eight-hour day because it reduces their earnings is not an alibi for the steel industry. It is unfounded, but even if true would be additional condemnation of the practices in that industry. The production of steel can and must be placed on a basis where it affords an American standard of living with an American work day of eight hours. The steel trust has a reserve fund of $500,000,000 in undivided surplus, which indicates its profit-making powers.

"The meaning of Judge Gary's statement is that the steel industry intends to abolish the inhuman 12-hour work day when it gets ready and not before.

"The naming of an investigating committee to inquire into the question of the work day under the auspices of the iron and steel institute is additional deception.

"It is typical of the present day ecclesiastic mastery of big business that it should use the white house itself as a rostrum from which to give to the country the latest example of cynical deception, more emphatically and perhaps more fitly described as what the American people are accustomed to call 'bunk.'"

TRADE UNION INCORPORATION WOULD AID LABOR OPPONENTS

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, May 27.—"Business institutions do not incorporate to increase their responsibility or liabilities, but always for the purpose of limiting the same," says P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, writing in Canadian Congress Journal against the incorporation of trade unions.

"The ground always urged is that unions should be incorporated and become amenable to the law just like an employer, a partnership or any corporate body is.

"The short and simple answer is that trade unions, whether incorporated or unincorporated, are and always have been subject to the law, with no privileges that an employer, a partnership or a corporate body have, but with many disabilities that these have not.

"Incorporation of trade unions would restrict their activities to such as the courts decided to be good for them, and would place with the courts the power to interpret their constitutions and would further establish a property right for such suspended officers as was recently attempted by the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employes in the case against the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada for suspension. It would give power to the courts to dissolve trade unions for the purposes for which they were incorporated and in every way would serve as a deterrent to their growth and useful development.

"For the benefit of those who do not understand labor's rather chilly indifference toward the law and judges, let me point out some of the reasons:

"The employer is held responsible for the acts of his agents only when the agent is acting within the scope of his authority. The union has, for one reason or other, been mulcted in damages for absolutely unauthorized acts of members, even where those acts have been committed without the knowledge or consent of the unions.

"Organized employers who conspired together to drive a competitor into the ground—to ruin him—and have succeeded, were held within the law. Union members agreeing together, for even less drastic objects, have been enjoined and punished in damages by the same courts.

"The courts have frequently driven through acts of parliament to help the employer and to find a way to give judgment against the men.

"The courts have granted injunctions so wide in their terms as to leave it questionable whether any peaceful picketing was possible without violating the injunction.

"It is the beneficiaries of the above system who urge unions to place their confidence in the law."

"POSSIBLE DANGER" IN SICK-HOME WORK

Washington, May 27.—The children's bureau reports "a possible danger to the health of the community" because large numbers of families in Rhode Island do home work while other members have a family were ill with infectious diseases.

"In some cases the sick persons took part in the work," it is stated.

"The settlement of manufacturers using the home-work system indicates that industrial home work in this district could be abolished with but few business losses."

The report says that none of the labor laws of the state applied, at the time of the investigation, to work done in homes. It is found that at least 4,000 children under 16 years of age had done home work in the course of a year; that over 7 per cent of all the children 5 to 15 years of age, inclusive, in the three cities, had been engaged in such work during that period, and that 3.5 per cent had worked for 10 days or more. Of these 2,235 children who had worked at least one month out of the year and had reported hours, 1,000 or more per cent were under 6 years of age and 46 were even under the age of 3.

The state laws for school children and children working in factories are found inadequate to protect in the case of home-working children, the report said.

Four-fifths of the 955 children who reported earnings could not make, it is found, $5 per week, which is cents an hour working at top speed; half could not make 5 cents.

HINDUS DESERT SHIP.

Washington, May 27.—Continuous protests by organized seamen against the employment of Oriental seamen on American ships is recalled by cable reports of the disaster to the British steamer Egypt, off the coast of France. The vessel was rammed in a collision and sank after its engines had been out of time for skilled seamen to swing lifeboats free from the sinking ship and rescue the passengers, but the Hindu crew rushed for the lifeboats and were drowned. About 100 men, women and children were drowned.

Representatives of organized seamen are calling the attention of congress to the report of the disaster, and are asking them what kind of Americanism permits the employment of Hindus and other Orientals on vessels owned by the United States shipping board.

OPPOSES STARTING PAPER.

Houston, Texas, May 27.—The convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen rejected a proposal to create a $5,000,000 fund for the establishment of a daily newspaper to be published in the interests of organized labor.

Officers were instructed to join with other labor organizations so disposed in considering the establishment of a labor-owned paper mill. The committee reported that such an ownership would be "ultimately beneficial" to press profits to the paper combine.

RAILWAY CLERKS RE-ELECT.

Dallas, Texas, May 27.—Grand President Fitzgerald of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, was unanimously re-elected at the convention held in this city. Other officers re-elected were: George P. Last, grand secretary-treasurer; James J. Forrester, national legislative counsel, and Phil E. Burton, editor and manager of the Railway Clerk.

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., May 27. The current issue of American Pressmen includes a goodly-sized list of wage gains made by locals affiliated with the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union.

MILL MEN WANT MORE.

Everett, Wash., May 27.—Employers at the Ferry-Baker mill suspended work to enforce a wage increase of 25 a day. The basic rate is now $5, which means a living cost of the question, these employers declare.

ANTI-UNIONISTS PET SCHEME CALLED 'IRIDESCENT DREAM'

Washington, May 27.—The "open" shop is an iridescent dream—it must be either a union or non-union shop, Frederick Delano, former president of the Wabash railroad, told the transportation group of the chamber of commerce of the United States.

The former railroad official said he has reached this conclusion "after experience and observation running over a period of years." The so-called "open shop" is often talked of, he said, "represents a temporary condition which, in practice, does not and cannot continue and therefore its discussion is largely academic."

While the speaker gave no consolation to union-smashing propagandists, he declared, in favor of a semi-military status for railroad employes, who should be prohibited by law from striking. He says he would permit them to quit their employment after they gave proper notice, but it would be illegal for them "in any way" to interfere with the continuous operation of the trains.

High Retail Prices For Texas Lumber

Austin, Texas, May 27.—A survey of the Texas lumber industry by the state bureau of labor statistics gives interesting insights on manufacturing costs and retailers' profits.

The average cost of lumber, exclusive of stumpage, at the mills investigated, was $26.01 per 1,000 feet, which cost the mills an average of $22.84 per 1,000 feet to manufacture, and included all overhead expenses and all labor charges.

Against this manufacturers' profit of $4 per 1,000 feet is the cost of lumber to the retail lumber yards, and the cost charged the ultimate consumer. It is shown that in these yards in nine of the leading Texas cities on December 1, last was $24.27 per 1,000 feet, and was sold on an average for $48.55 per 1,000 feet.

The widest spread is reported from this city, where the cost of the lumber which they sold for $56.68. All of these retail prices are for oak, which is the kind that is charged when the purchaser is given credit.

The lumber's average daily wage daily wage has dropped from $5.15 per day in 1920 to $2.43 at the present time. The present average per week is $3.60 per day, and the minimum $1.25.

The average number of hours worked per day is 10.

Of the 91 mills investigated, 62 operate company stores and 61 rent company houses, at an average rate of $4.28 per month.

Fifty-four mills deducted an average of $1.45 per month from married employes and $1 from single men for medical service, hospital and physician.

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

Washington, May 27.—The bureau of labor statistics presents reports concerning the volume of employment in April, 1922, from representative establishments in 12 manufacturing industries. The coal mining industry is not included.

Comparing the figures of April, 1922, with those for March, from 1,000 establishments for April, 1921, it appears that in every case there were establishments there were increases in the number of persons employed, while for 11 the number of hours was decreased. The most important increases are 24.6 per cent in hosiery and underwear and 27.8 per cent in men's shirt manufacturing. Cotton manufacturing alone shows decreases, 28.7 per cent and cotton finishing a decrease of 11.1 per cent.

When comparing April, 1922, with March of the same year, two industries show increases in the amount of money paid to employes, and 10 of the establishments investigated show the greatest increase—21.3 per cent. A decrease of 24.5 per cent appears in men's ready-made clothing and one of 18.2 per cent in silk.

UNIONISTS SUE CITY.

Toledo, Ohio, May 27.—The central labor union of this city has started suit against Mayor Brand and other officials to compel them to pay city laborers the wage scale of $4 per day, instead of $3.50. The council's minimum rate of 50 cents an hour has never been repealed, but has been set aside by the mayor, who was elected by the "law-and-order" element on a "down-with-labor" ticket.

The unionists are demanding that the mayor set an example for law and order by living up to the laws he is sworn to enforce, and that he is not too high, let him ask council to make the change, as provided by law.

SAY THEY'LL OUST CHEATS.

Chicago, May 27.—The national retail dry goods association announces intends to eliminate all cheating, according to the new president, Homer C. Jones, of this city.

"It is our intention," he said, "to eliminate from the coal business the so-called coal dealer who shorts weights, substitutes and defrauds customers by false dealings, janitors and engineers."

BARBERS RENEW PACT.

Yonkers, N. Y., May 27.—Organized barbers have renewed last year's agreement with employers.

SECURE WAGE INCREASES.

Detroit, Mich., May 27.—Organized bricklayers have raised wages from $1 an hour to $1.25.

ENFORCE 8-HOUR LAW P. O. CLERKS SUGGEST

Washington, May 27.—As the din and clatter subsides over the visit to the white house of steel magnates who discussed the 12-hour day with the president, post office clerks suggest that the president give first enforce its eight-hour law.

Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks is endeavoring to enlist the support of organized labor in securing a proper observance of the postal eight-hour law. Thousands of clerks in the larger post offices are working 10-hour tours daily.

"We are not asking for more than the president's position in his commendable effort to secure a shorter workday for employes in the steel industry," said Secretary Flaherty. "It is expected that the government must apply this principle in its largest establishments before it can consistently urge its adoption by the steel manufacturers.

"The postal service department claims to be without authority to correct the situation for lack of appropriations. It is my view, however, that the eight-hour day could be secured for the post office clerks without any cost to the government. The present movement requires the clerks to do as much work in handle more mail on an eight-hour basis than on the present 10-hour schedule."

FREIGHT BY WATER CHEAPEST

Washington, May 27.—The Mississippi waterway shipped more freight last year at an average of 3.86 mills per ton mile, as against the average charge of 12.13 mills per ton by the railroads. In 1920 railroads charged 10.63 mills per ton mile, or nearly three less than last year.

These figures, taken from reports by the interstate commerce commission, were included in a speech by Representative Lehlbach of New Jersey on the economy of transportation by water. Mississippi waterway traffic is attacked by the railroads in every form possible, and Congressman Newton declared that the railroads ought "not to be permitted by legislation or otherwise to make a subdivision of rates to destroy a form of transportation which can afford to do it." Throughout the country, he said, 2.86 mills per ton-mile, and then compel the Mississippi waterway shippers to pay 12.74 mills per ton-mile for the same service.

"Our waterways ought to be a part of the great transportation system of the country," he said, "and to forget waterways and railroads and highways as separate entities. It is not the railways alone that we are interested in, and it is not waterways alone that we are interested in. What the business of the country must have is the best system of transportation, in whatever form it may be, at the cheapest price available."

WOMEN HISS BLANTON.

Washington, May 27.—Congressman Blanton, of Texas, was hissed in the house gallery while he was making almost a single-handed fight against a bill to increase the rent act, which checks profiteering District of Columbia landlords.

The law would expire within a few hours. During that time it had to be passed by the house, then hurried to the senate and then to the president for his signature before midnight of the same day. Blanton fought savagely for delay and was overruled on his feet demanding roll calls.

The bill passed the house by a vote of 248 to 21, and was quickly approved by the senate by a vote of 25 to 16. The bill was then rushed to the white house where it was signed by the president.

The rapidity with which congress acted saved the population of this city, including congress, from homelessness, from being gouged by landlords, some of whom have already raised rents on the theory that congress would fail to extend the law.

PROBING COAL MINING.

Seattle, May 27.—Church men are about to have conditions in the coal mines and Dr. Samuel Z. Batten to an audience of wage earners in one of the churches. The labor speaker is a member of the special commission on coal mining and industrial relations of the federal churches of Christ. He said the probe will show that coal miners have earned on an average but $1,345 yearly for the past two years.

Despite these low wages coal has increased in price $1.4 ton and more and the profits of the big coal companies, said Dr. Batten, that higher wages for the miners has caused the increase.

RESIST 8-HOUR AWARD.

Seattle, May 27.—Mill and lumber owners at Klamath Falls are now "inducing" business men to urge mill workers to accept the eight-hour day. The state board of conciliation ruled that the eight-hour day should prevail, but the board rejected the award and are attempting to develop a public opinion that will justify their course.

The owners have assumed an air of injured innocence and express regret that politics had to play its part in the board's award.

UNIONISTS UNITE CHILD LABOR FOES

Washington May 27.—Representatives of a score of national organizations will meet on June 1 in the A. F. of L. building to join in a campaign to secure adoption of a constitutional amendment to stop child labor. The organizations include church, child welfare, women and educational.

President Gompers has issued the invitation on authority of the A. F. of L. executive council, which authorized him to have prepared a constitutional amendment and a model state law.

The conference will be the beginning of the A. F. of L. campaign to abolish child labor. Wednesday of the first week of the coming A. F. of L. convention will be devoted to this question. On that day addresses will be delivered by a dozen leading opponents of child labor.

"Without Par Value" Is Financial Trick

Washington, May 27.—The purchase of the well-known financial term, "without par value" permits financial juggling, according to Senator Couzens of New Mexico.

In discussing a well-known paint concern of Cleveland, Ohio, that has absorbed 17 other concerns, Mr. Jones said:

"I believe that the concern has adopted the modern device of issuing stock without par value. By so doing the concern may make, or the valuation of the stock may be increased, or the fact of it having not par value, as the case may be, or intended to be put into it, whether it be ash water or whether it has some real value, is known to the men in the financial dominion."

This would seem to be a very convenient device for a concern intending to monopolize various institutions and industries.

WOULD BAN CHILD LABOR.

Washington, May 27.—A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the federal constitution, giving congress the right to regulate or prohibit the employment of children under 18 years of age, has been introduced in the senate by Mr. Johnson of California, who said it is an effort to meet the situation resulting from the recent decision of the supreme court holding the child labor law unconstitutional.

The amendment would add the following to the tenth amendment to the federal constitution:

"Provided, however, that congress shall have power to regulate or prohibit through the United States the employment of children under 18 years of age."

Similar to amendment to the constitution is:

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

BROKERS SPENT VAST SUMS.

New York, May 27.—Wall street lambs who invested their money with the defunct firm of E. B. Fiske & Co., brokers, are now privileged to see where some of their money went when the company's books were opened.

The cost of lunches last year was $23,000. Stamps were alleged to have cost $38,000; advertising, $71,000; leased telegraphs, $84,000; stationery, $48,000, and traveling expenses and entertainment, $11,000. Other charges were listed as "petty expenses."

Some of the major items were: Administrative expenses, $700,000; general administration expense, $175,000; salaries, $485,000. The latter does not include $216,000 in cash withdrawn by members of the firm during the year.

STEEL PAYS LOW WAGES.

New York, May 27.—Low wages paid common labor in the steel industry is shown by the report from Bullock that the Lackawanna steel company has raised wages from 23 cents an hour to 25 cents for day greek department alone. The total resources of the society are $49,042,31.

RETAIL CLERKS GAIN.

Bellaire, Ohio, May 27.—The Retail Clerks' union has advanced its membership to 1,000 since the movement also calls for one hour's noon-day lunch period.

CO-OPERATIVE STORE.

Farmington, Ill., May 27.—The co-operative society at this place is an additional proof that co-operation along fraternal lines is successful. Its quarterly report shows a net saving of $4,749.21. A net saving of $1,000 was made in the dry goods department alone. The total resources of the society are $49,042.31.

WANT LABOR TO BEAR FREIGHT RATE CUT

Washington, May 27.—The recent meeting of railroad executives and the president at the white house has left the public expectant of the administration as managers refuse to cut freight rates unless wages are reduced.

It is stated that the president was host to the managers would not make concessions, and now the interstate commerce commission has cut rates 16 per cent.

When the president invited the rail managers to meet him, representatives of business concerns that sell equipment to the railroads issued a public statement in which sinister reference was made to the attempt of politicians to curry favor by forcing rate reductions.

"Rate reduction, regardless of labor costs, adjustment may easily mean soup kitchens in the autumn," declared these business men, who made no comment on the fact that the country has just passed through a winter with the greatest army of unemployed in its history. The business men make no suggestion that the prices to the public be cut.

It is possible that the impudent warning to the government by these business men, many of whom are interlocked with the railroads, was never equalled.

FEW FIREMEN GRADUATE.

Cleveland, Ohio, May 27.—Few locomotive firemen ever win a place on the right side of the cab, and but six in every 100 ever get placed in the engineer service according to the press information service of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

"The training, skill and physical perfection required of an engineer is unsurpassed," declares the union. Engine wipers, hostlers and firemen who have served the law long have had the opportunity to grasp the throttle fall by the wayside in the thorough elimination of the less fit.

"Even after rejecting all who cannot pass physical tests, the standards for height, perfect vision, heart action, blood pressure, etc., 17 per cent of the firemen who aspire to become engineers are rejected at the end of three years because they generally become impaired by the fierce glare of a grate of coals thawing out 2,800 degrees of heat.

"An additional 76 per cent do not exhibit the temperament and responsibility required of an engineer, so that only 17 out of every 100 candidates ever win a place on the right side of the cab."

CLOSED RANKS NECESSARY.

Lafayette, Ind., May 27.—"From now on we can expect nothing from 'wage boards' and other bodies established during the war to work out tangles, promote industrial peace and harmony in the railroad industrial in their make-up, others being purely railroad in jurisdiction, and these in turn have become affiliated in building trades councils and departments. Each system, division and railway employes' representative in the shop, mill, district, district, tri-district and mining department in the mining industry, affiliated with the trades, label trades, metal trades and allied trades, are now being organized into better federations each year."

NEW YORK WAGES LESS.

Albany, N. Y., May 27.—The average weekly earnings of New York state factory workers declined 42 cents from March to April, according to the state department of labor. The April average was $24.15 a reduction of 1.7 per cent in comparison with April of last year. That statement is based on reports received and filed by representative manufacturers of this state.

LESS MAJOR MINE DISASTERS.

Washington, May 27.—Last year there were but five explosions resulting in five or more deaths in coal mines, a number from such accidents was only 34, says the United States bureau of mines. The number of deaths was smaller than for any preceding year since annual accidents of coal mine fatalities have been published by the federal government.

DISCUSS 12-HOUR DAY; GARY TALKS PRETTY

Washington, May 27.—The 12-hour day in the steel industry was discussed by nearly half a hundred of the company executives of the President Harding's guests at the white house.

The steel men authorized Judge Gary to appoint a committee of five to investigate and report their conclusions to the industry. After the meeting Judge Gary announced that every one present "favored abolition of the 12-hour day if and when making public."

In announcing the result of the president's conference with the steel men, George B. Christian, his secretary, said that the president explained to the steel executives that he had discussed the matter with industrial heads and found much favorable sentiment but there is a conviction that the abolition is impracticable without substantially unanimous action by all the engineering forces from end to end of the industries, began the dinner and the attendant opportunity to address the proposal amid free and frank expression on a question of such importance to the country.

In his report to the steel trust stockholders, on April 17 last, Judge Gary referred to a report, several years ago, by a committee of five engineers, which stated that they would like to see the 12-hour day done away with, but that they relied it would not be practicable or possible, "unless the employers or any number of employers by inaugurate a shorter hour system unless a similar policy should be adopted by all employers in the same industry."

Judge Gary's statement in view of this report, that the thing "could not be done," he told the steel stockholders, September, October and March, 1922, "we reduced the number of hours per week of the workmen to 14 per cent."

NEED SPIRIT, NOT FORMS.

Philadelphia, May 27.—Trade unists at this city urge organized labor to study the report of the A. F. of L. organization by the recent convention of the federation of labor convention.

The report states that within the A. F. of L. is sufficient machinery for the workers to remedy their ills if they will but take an interest in their organizations and use this machinery.

"Looking into the present situation as regards to our membership," it is said, "we find that the apparent apathy on the part of the membership has a place in the right not so much the fault of the present form of organization by the organization as it is of individual members who neglect to take part in the affairs of their respective organizations.

"An observation of the various labor organizations composing the A. F. of L., shows that a number are purely craft organizations, some industrial in their make-up, others being purely railroad in jurisdiction, and these in turn have become affiliated in building trades councils and departments. Each system, division and railway employes' representative in the shop, mill, district, district, tri-district and mining department in the mining industry, affiliated with the trades, label trades, metal trades and allied trades, are now being organized into better federations each year."

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COOKS WANT LIVING WAGE.

Olympia, Wash., May 27.—Cooks in this city are demanding a restoration of wages they voluntarily reduced six months ago, to assist employers in tiding over slack times. Should the employers refuse to concur, but demand the anti-union shop.

RENEW AGREEMENT.

Portland, Ore., May 27.—The largest store in the northwest which in 1920 put over with organized labor the open shop policy, has renewed its agreement with the Retail Clerks' union.

COAL OWNERS "CALLED" BY NEW YORK CLERGYMAN

New York, May 27.—Rabbi Wise, well-known Jewish clergyman of this city, has called upon the New River coal operators' association, which has invited him to visit West Virginia coal fields.

In accepting the invitation, Dr. Wise declares that he is convinced for himself and associates would be in the mine districts of West Virginia and know something about them," he said. "I believe that in the course of the West Virginia coal owners upon unchecked and unchallenged we shall have a breakdown in the substance and spirit of our American democracy. American democracy and the spirit of the New River coal operators' association cannot exist together. One or the other must go, and what should go is not American democracy, but the spirit or the New River coal owners."

FRIENDLY RAIL OFFICIAL.

Chicago, May 27.—L. W. Baldwin, vice president of the Illinois Central railroad is a friendly sort of an individual. In an address in this city he discussed lower freight rates and said "we must take the public into our confidence and tell them what we are doing in order to serve in an effort to reduce rates." And to show that he is willing to be chummy with the public, Mr. Baldwin whispers that wage reductions in the very first thing needed.

It is expected that this unexampled confidence of the railroads will still more cause the public to forget all about high salaries, dividends on watered stock, and buying supplies from concerns that are interlocked with railroads through the same set of directors.

TRICK IN DAYLIGHT SAVING.

Washington, May 27.—Thousands of federal employes fear that there is a "joker" in the daylight saving order, just put into effect by the nation's capital. The clocks have not been advanced, which causes those workers to fear that in a short time it will be suggested that 2:30 p. m. is too early for them to quit employment, and in the interests of economy they should work an extra hour.

REBUKE CHEAP WAGE BOSS.

Olympia, Wash., May 27.—The state supreme court refused a writ of habeas corpus to a Seattle contractor who was fined and sentenced to 30 days in jail for having violated the city's minimum wage ordinance. The court held the prisoner's contention that the superior court could relieve him, if he were wronged. Municipal employes swore out the warrant.

WEBER RE-ELECTED.

Grand Rapids, Mich., May 27.—President Weber and associate officers were unanimously re-elected by the American Federation of Musicians. The next convention will be held in St. Louis.

MOLDERS RATE AGREED TO.

Rochester, N. Y., May 27.—Iron Molders' union No. 11 and local foundrymen have agreed to a wage increase of $5.40 a day for the year 1922.

BAKERS DEFEAT WAGE CUT.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 27.—After a two weeks' strike the Bakery union defeated an attempt to reduce wages.

SIGN BAKERS' CONTRACT.

Hoquiam, Wash., May 27.—Bakery employers in this city and vicinity have signed the wage agreement of Bakers' union No. 82.

Australian Miners Resisting Wage Cuts

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, May 27.—Business in the coal industry is demanding cheaper coal and several companies are trying to force a 5-shilling reduction on their employes.

"It is not the intention of the coal barons to suffer one penny's loss of profits," says the Australian Worker. "They propose that the whole of the reduction shall be taken from the pay envelopes of the miners.

"The miners say, and rightly so, that they do not intend to allow the coal barons to penalize them. They demand that if any reduction is made it shall be at the expense of the huge profits revealed and now revealed, now being made by the coal barons."

The labor paper calls attention to the recent statement by the Australian Treasurer that "The increase in coal profits is notable in view of the disturbed state of the industry and the possibility of further unrest."

FAKE LETTERS EXPOSED.

Tamaqua, Pa., May 27.—Striking miners have exposed the Tamaqua courier because it published letters alleged to be signed by miners who protested against the miners' strike and who complained about officers of the Miners' union. In a letter to the editor, the trade unionists declare that these letters are inspired by interests unfriendly to the miners' workers and by your paper publishing the same without investigation are only following out your attitude of unfairness, as you have done in previous strikes and suspensions.

AID TO OLD PARTIES.

Columbus, Ohio, May 27.—The seats of over a score of mayors who were elected last fall on Independent tickets have been placed in jeopardy by a state supreme court decision.

In a contested councilmanic election in Cincinnati the supreme court held that all independent tickets in municipalities of over 2,000 population are void, the general assembly never having enacted laws to make the constitutional provision for independent candidates operative.

WILL FIGHT WAGE RAISE.

Topeka, Kan., May 27.—Officials of the Associated Industries of Kansas announce that they will contest the recent wage order of the state industrial court which raises rates for women 50 cents and 31 a week. The law was splendid when used to help workers, but when used to raise wages, liberty is jeopardized.